

CLAIMS

1. Compounds corresponding to general formula (I):



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in which R is an at least monofunctional, saturated or unsaturated alkyl group containing at least 2 and at most 36 carbon atoms, m is an integer of 1 to 16 and n is a number of 1 to 500, with the proviso that the product of n and m has a value of at least 1 and the substituents R' independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom or a group OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M, SO₃M or SO₄M, the compounds having to contain at least one substituent R' which is not a hydrogen atom, and the AO's independently of one another represent a group C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O- and M is a cation with at least one charge.

- 10 15 2. Compounds corresponding to general formula (II):



20 25 30 in which the substituents R'' independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom or a group OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M or SO₃M, at least one substituent R which is not a hydrogen atom having to be present in the compounds, the AO's independently of one another represent a group C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O- and the indices x, y and z independently of one another stand for 0 or for even or uneven numbers which, together, should have a value of at least 1 and at most 500, and the M's represent a cation with at least one charge, with the further proviso that, where x, y or z is 0, the particular substituent R is a hydrogen atom.

3. Compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, in

general formula (I), the product of the indices n and m or, in formula (II), the sum of the indices x, y and z is a number of 10 to 100, more particularly 30 to 80 and preferably 40 to 60.

4. Compounds corresponding to general formula (I) or (II) in which AO
5 is exclusively a group C_3H_6-O .

5. Compounds corresponding to general formula (I) or (II), in which AO
is exclusively a group C_2H_4-O .

6. Compounds as claimed in claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the
sum of the indices x, y and z in formula (I) is a number of 50 to 500, prefer-
10 ably 10 to 100, more preferably 30 to 80 and most preferably 40 to 60.

7. A preparation containing at least water and, in addition, compounds
of formula (I) in quantities of 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the total
weight of the preparation.

8. A preparation as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it has a pH
15 value at 21°C of 4 to 10.5, preferably 5 to 9 and more particularly 6 to 8.

9. A preparation as claimed in claims 7 and 8, characterized in that it
contains the compounds of formula (I) in quantities of 10 to 50% by weight,
preferably 25 to 45% by weight and more particularly 35 to 45% by weight.

10. The use of the compounds of formula (I) claimed in claim 1 in
20 detergents/softeners.

11. The use of the preparation claimed in claim 7 for treating and, in
particular, washing textile fibers.

12. The use claimed in claim 10 for treating wool fibers or textiles
containing wool.

25 13. The use claimed in claim 10 for treating cotton fibers or textiles
containing cotton.

14. The use claimed in claim 10 for improving the pilling behavior of
fibers or yarns.

15. The use of compounds corresponding to formula (I) for washing
30 wool.